

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 GENEVA 07398 130956Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9634  
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USMISSION USNATO

S E C R E T GENEVA 07398

EXDIS

USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: PARM  
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR EARLE'S STATEMENT OF MAY 12, 1978  
(SALT TWO-1741)

MR. MINISTER:

- I

TODAY I WILL RETURN TO THE SUBJECT OF ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF ICBM LAUNCHES COVERED BY ARTICLE XVI OF THE TREATY.

- II

ON APRIL 12, THE SOVIET DELEGATION PROPOSED ADVANCE NOTIFICATION FOR EACH ICBM LAUNCH ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS WITH AN EXEMPTION FOR SINGLE LAUNCHES, FROM BOTH TEST RANGES AND ICBM DEPLOYMENT AREAS, WHICH ARE NOT PLANNED TO EXTEND BEYOND THE NATIONAL TERRITORY OF THE LAUNCHING  
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SIDE. THE SOVIET SIDE ALSO PROPOSED A COMMON UNDERSTANDING TO DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN SINGLE AND MULTIPLE ICBM LAUNCHES. SPECIFICALLY, THE PROPOSED COMMON UNDERSTANDING DEFINES A MULTIPLE LAUNCH AS "...A LAUNCH OF TWO OR MORE ICBMS FROM ONE TEST RANGE OR FROM ONE ICBM LAUNCHER DEPLOYMENT AREA WITHIN NO MORE THAN TEN MINUTES."

THE SIDES ARE NOW IN AGREEMENT THAT THERE BE OBJECTIVE STANDARDS FOR ADVANCE NOTIFICATION. IN ADDITION, THE UNITED STATES AGREES WITH THE SOVIET SIDE THAT IT IS DESIRABLE TO DIFFERENTIATE IN THE TREATY BETWEEN SINGLE AND MULTIPLE LAUNCHES. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO DEFINE A SINGLE LAUNCH, BECAUSE THAT IS THE TERM USED IN THE ARTICLE. ACCORDINGLY, THE UNITED STATES PROPOSES THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE TO ACCOMPLISH THIS PURPOSE:

(THIRD) COMMON UNDERSTANDING TO

- PARAGRAPH 1 OF ARTICLE XVI

THE SIDES AGREE THAT THE NEGOTIATING RECORD REFLECTS THE COMMON UNDERSTANDING THAT A SINGLE ICBM LAUNCH, AS REFERRED TO IN ARTICLE XVI, IS A LAUNCH OF AN ICBM WHICH DOES NOT OCCUR WITHIN SIXTY MINUTES OF ANOTHER LAUNCH OF AN ICBM BY THE SAME SIDE.

THE PRACTICAL EFFECT OF THIS DEFINITION IS TO IDENTIFY A MULTIPLE LAUNCH AS A LAUNCH OF TWO OR MORE ICBMS WITHIN SIXTY MINUTES OR LESS. SINCE THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT TWO OR MORE LAUNCHES FROM EITHER THE SAME OR DIFFERENT LAUNCH AREAS WITHIN THE SPECIFIED TIME PERIOD SHOULD CONSTITUTE A MULTIPLE LAUNCH, NO REFERENCE IS SECRET

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APPROPRIATE IN THE COMMON UNDERSTANDING TO THE AREA OR AREAS FROM WHICH THE ICBMS ARE LAUNCHED.

ADDITIONALLY, THE COMMON UNDERSTANDING PROPOSED BY THE UNITED STATES PROVIDES A TIME CRITERION OF SIXTY MINUTES, WHICH WE BELIEVE WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE REQUIREMENT FOR ADVANCE NOTIFICATION. A SIXTY MINUTE TIME CRITERION WOULD ENSURE THAT ONLY ONE ICBM FLIGHT COULD BE IN PROGRESS AT ANY ONE TIME WITHOUT ADVANCE NOTIFICATION HAVING BEEN PROVIDED.

THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE THAT ALL LAUNCHES, SINGLE OR MULTIPLE, REGARDLESS OF THEIR ORIGIN, BE SUBJECT TO ADVANCE NOTIFICATION. HOWEVER, IN LIGHT OF CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY THE SOVIET SIDE, THE UNITED STATES HAS ALREADY INDICATED ITS WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT AN EXEMPTION FOR SINGLE LAUNCHES FROM DESIGNATED TEST RANGES, EVEN THOUGH SUCH AN EXEMPTION WOULD EXCLUDE FROM THE REQUIREMENT FOR ADVANCE NOTIFICATION THE MAJOR PORTION OF SOVIET ICBM LAUNCHES. NEVERTHELESS, THE UNITED STATES REMAINS CONVINCED THAT EACH SINGLE LAUNCH FROM AN ICBM LAUNCHER DEPLOYMENT AREA, AS WELL AS ALL MULTIPLE

LAUNCHES, SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENT OF ADVANCE  
NOTIFICATION.

- III

MR. MINISTER, THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT THE PRO-  
POSAL PUT FORWARD TODAY PROVIDES THE BASIS FOR COM-  
PLETING THE WORK ON ARTICLE XVI. EARLE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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